

Serial 0010

Subject: War Diary for the month of April, 1944.

SECRET

(See Enclosure b) in company with screen, U.S.S. MACKENZIE and U.S.S. KENDRICK. Proceeded to Gulf of ARZEW to carry out scheduled simulated shore bombardment practice. U.S.S. MADISON reported for screening duty. 1455 Two P-39's commenced making runs to exercise the ship in fighter plane attack in accord with Annex "B" to Movement Order No. C/44. 1707 Commenced battle problem in accordance with Annex "C" to Movement Order No. C/44. 1804 Completed battle problem. 1805 U.S.S. MADISON detached. 1807 Set course for PALERMO, SICILY, zigzagging at one-half time intervals in accordance with zigzag plan ELEVEN.

(b) At 0625, 13 April 1944, held dawn General Quarters. 1100 Changed from zigzag plan ELEVEN to zigzag plan SEVEN. 1738 Ordered U.S.S. KENDRICK to investigate ship sighted at 1738. 1748 U.S.S. KENDRICK identified ship as U.S. Hospital ship and resumed station in screen.

(c) At 0600, 14 April 1944, held dawn General Quarters. 0644 Commenced firing 5"/25 Cal. local control practice in accordance with Annex "D" of Movement Order No. C/44. 0659 Completed firing practice. 1003 Entered PALERMO harbor moored port side to jetty DIGA FORANEA, PALERMO, SICILY with seven manila lines, one bow wire and one stern wire. Ships present: U.S.S. BROOKLYN (SOPA), U.S.S. ERICSSON, U.S.S. KEARNY, U.S.S. LANSDALE, U.S.S. MACKENZIE, plus various units of the U.S. Fleet and district craft. 2340 U.S.S. BROOKLYN and U.S.S. KEARNY got underway and stood out.

14 to 30 April

(a) At PALERMO, SICILY, on four-hours' notice to get underway for shore bombardment at ANZIO, ITALY. Operating under orders of CTF 86 and Commander Cruiser Squadron 15 (Royal Navy).

(b) On 20 April Rear Admiral Lyal A. Davidson, U.S. Navy (CTF 86) returned aboard and hoisted his flag.

(c) Underway on 18 and 25 April for gunnery and damage control drills as indicated in enclosures (c) and (d).

(d) On 29 April conducted Annual Materiel Inspection of U.S.S. BROOKLYN.

(e) During this period personnel were trained in gunnery, damage control and chemical warfare. Preparations were made for Annual Military and Damage Control Inspections to be conducted by CTF 86 assisted by U.S.S. BROOKLYN.

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